

Application No. 09/987,262
Reply to the Office Action of November 30, 2004

REMARKS/COMMENTS

Claims 26-37, 39-42 and 44-48 remain active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a composite oxide powder which is useful as a catalyst support.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowed subject matter in the case.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 46-48 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner to overcome the issue raised with respect to the term obtainable, as well as to obviate the issue regarding whether M_1 must necessarily be cerium and whether M_2 must necessarily be at least one Al, Ti and Si.

As to Claim 48 and the matter of element M_3 , appropriate language has been added to Claim 48 to define the method by which elements M_1 , M_2 and M_3 are formulated in a composite oxide powder. Support for the amendments made to the language of the preparation of an aqueous solution and precipitating steps can be found in paragraph [0053] of page 17 of the text. Withdrawal of the second paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112, First Paragraph

The non-enablement rejection is believed obviated by the discussion above where it is clear that the amendments made to the process steps of Claim 48 find support in paragraph

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[0053] of the specification. Withdrawal of the first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

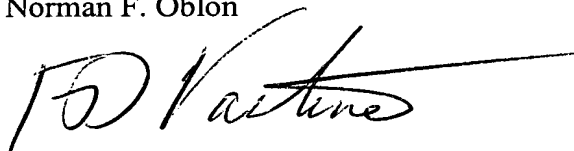
It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for consideration on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "FD Vastine", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frederick D. Vastine, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 27,013